

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

CIEP-01 FRB-03 OMB-01 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /070 W

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R 300923Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4423

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ABIDJAN 6393

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, OCON, IV

SUBJECT: IVORIAN MINAG SAWADOGO ON COFFEE NEGOTIATIONS

REF LONDON 10765

1. AMBASSADOR AND NEW DCM CALLED ON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
ABDOULAYE SAWADOGO ON JULY 23 TO GET HIS VIEWS ON RECENTLY
COMPLETED COFFEE NEGOTIATIONS IN LONDON.

2. SAWADOGO WAS VERY COMPLIMENTARY TO USDEL AND SPOKE OF CLOSE
WORKING RELATIONSHIP DEVELOPED DURING RECENT SESSION. HE
BELIEVES THAT GOIC USG POSITIONS HAVE BECOME VERY CLOSE.
HE IS DELIGHTED WITH THIS FORM OF COOPERATIVE, RATHER THAN
COMPETITIVE, APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES.

3. HE ALSO SPOKE DISPARAGINGLY OF SMALL COFFEE PRODUCERS WHO
ARE PUSHING FOR THEIR SPECIAL INTERESTS. HE WAS CRITICAL OF THEM
FOR FAILING TO BE REPRESENTED IN THE CONTACT GROUP. HE WAS
ALSO ANNOYED BY SOME OF THE SMALLER AFRICAN PRODUCERS WHO WERE
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TRYING TO INSIST ON "AN OAU POSITION" FOR THE COFFEE NEGOTIA-

TIONS; HE SAID HE TOLD ONE OF THEM THAT THIS WAS NOT A POLITICAL FORUM BUT AN ECONOMIC NEGOTIATION ON A PARTICULAR COMMODITY AND, IF THEY PREFERRED TO NEGOTIATE WITH BRAZIL OR COLUMBIA RATHER THAN WITH IVORY COAST, HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO LEAVE THE FIELD TO THEM.

4. CONCERNING PROPOSALS ON DETERMINING QUOTAS ON THE BASIS OF STOCKS, SAWADO GO POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS NO POSSIBLE FORMULA THAT DID NOT HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF BRAZIL'S MASSIVE STOCKS, SINCE THOSE HAD ALWAYS BEEN THE CRITICAL FACTOR IN THE WORLD MARKET.

5. AS FOR THE IMPACT OF THE RECENT FROST DAMAGE IN BRAZIL, HE WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT IT WOULD NOT DELAY THE COMPLETION OF COFFEE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS. WHILE THERE WOULD BE A TEMPTATION TO POSTPONE AN AGREEMENT IN THE FACE OF SHORT-TERM HIGHER PRICES, THE LARGE PRODUCERS WOULD BE CONCERNED THAT THE POSTPONEMENT WOULD MERELY ENCOURAGE SMALL PRODUCERS TO INCREASE PRODUCTION OF UNECONOMIC AND COMPETING COFFEE CROPS. HE SAID THAT HE HAD SPOKEN TO GOIC'S LONDON REPRESENTATIVE ON JULY 22 AND HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THE COFFEE REPRESENTATIVES IN LONDON WERE STILL FAVORABLE TO AN AGREEMENT NOW.
SMITH

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Message Attributes

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